



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE December 14, 2001

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen
Homeland Security Director

This is the sixth weekly Illinois Homeland Security Update. The purpose of the update is to ensure local officials are informed about state agency activities and preparedness. Previous updates are posted on the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) web site at www.state.il.us/iema.

- The Illinois Terrorism Task Force met Monday, December 10. One major topic of discussion was the announcement by U.S. Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert that he had secured release of \$5.8 million in terrorism funds for Illinois from the Department of Justice. That money represents Illinois' share of the DOJ terrorism money for FY00 and 01. The release of the money was based in large part on DOJ's acceptance of Illinois' three-year terrorism strategy and the statewide assessment that most counties chose to participate in. DOJ termed Illinois' plan "outstanding." The \$5.8 million will be used as follows:

- \$1.6 million in direct grants to the counties and municipalities that participated in the assessment by identifying their risks, resources and unmet needs.

- \$1.2 million to complete equipping the 32 local hazardous materials teams throughout the state that have agreed to be part of a statewide haz mat mutual aid response plan.

- \$3 million to complete equipping the Northern and Southern State Interagency Response

Teams, whose primary responsibility is to assist local incident commanders during a Weapons of Mass Destruction or other catastrophic incident.

Two new working committees were established:

-A committee was formed to develop a budget plan for the FY02 DOJ terrorism money.

Illinois is expected to receive between \$3 and \$4 million. The general strategy is to utilize at least 80 percent of that money for local grants based on a regional response concept. This committee includes representatives from the ITTF's Crisis Response, Bioterrorism, Communications, Training, and Public Information Committees plus MABAS, the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, the Illinois Sheriff's Association, the Illinois Chiefs of Police Association, the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association, and the City of Chicago.

-A committee also was formed to develop a plan for developing drug and antidote caches for first responders to be strategically placed around the state. Half of the \$2.5 million drug and antidote cache money in Governor Ryan's fall veto session terrorism supplemental spending bill is earmarked specifically for first responders.

- Homeland Security Director Matt Bettenhausen, IEMA Director Mike Chamness and Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. John Lumpkin all testified before the Illinois House Human Services Committee, which was chaired by Rep. Sara Feigenholtz. Topics included terrorism preparedness, Governor Ryan's supplemental terrorism bill, and bioterrorism .
- Law enforcement agencies have, for the past several years, displayed wreaths decorated with blue lights and black bows during the holiday season in memory of the nation's officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This year, businesses and citizens may wish to join law enforcement agencies in the display of this type of wreath in a special tribute to the police officers who died in the terrorist attacks of September 11. The blue lights not only honor officers who have lost their lives but also thank those officers who continue to work the nation's streets and highways every day of the year.
- Citizens should be aware of the circulation of a harmful electronic mail message in the cyberspace

arena. Anyone who receives an e-mail from ["osamaboutique@aol.com"](mailto:osamaboutique@aol.com) should *immediately* hold down the shift key and strike the DELETE key. This will permanently delete the message from the recipient's computer. The e-mail message has a link to a site on the Internet which could be detrimental to computers. As a reminder, persons should never open any suspicious or unusual e-mail messages received from unknown sources.

- The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) convened the quarterly meeting of the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Task Force in Oakbrook Terrace. The bioterrorism task force is a subcommittee to the Governor's Illinois Terrorism Task Force and was established to identify and develop recommendations on bioterrorism preparedness response issues in Illinois. The bioterrorism task force is a multi jurisdictional group consisting of representatives from public health, medical, first responder, and emergency management organizations. The focus of the quarterly meeting was to review the Illinois plan for the acquisition, repackaging, and distribution of the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS). Staff from IDPH and IEMA reviewed the roles and responsibilities of local, state, federal, and private organizations for each phase of the NPS process. It is anticipated that the department will release Version 2.0 of the plan next week.
- Prior to the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Task Force meeting, IDPH Director Dr. John Lumpkin convened an initial meeting to develop a plan for pediatric issues in relation to disaster response and acts of bioterrorism.
- The Illinois Department of Public Health conducted an internal tabletop exercise to review its response procedures for a bioterrorism event involving pneumonic plague. This was the third internal tabletop exercise conducted by IDPH for a major public health event. The Department had previously conducted exercises for a pandemic influenza and smallpox outbreak. During the plague tabletop exercise, senior department staff discussed activation, preparedness, coordination, and communication issues for a hypothetical incident at the United Center in Chicago. Department staff

was required to review the statewide plan for the deployment of the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile for the exercise.

- As of December 7, IDPH Springfield and Chicago laboratories have processed 1,443 anthrax samples which tested negative. All samples have been processed.
- The Illinois Department of Corrections has taken the following steps with contingency planning and preparedness:
 - All Facilities have added higher security measures to their outer perimeter.
 - All Facilities have strengthened their abilities to screen for contraband entering through the use of metal detectors, X-ray equipment, and K-9 units.
 - All Facilities are currently updating mail room procedures to deal with the threat of anthrax.
- The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) is ensuring appropriate coverage for emergency response during the upcoming holiday season through reviews of internal notification procedures and an assessment of available personnel.
- Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) staff has initiated inquiries about satellite cell phone systems and expects information on system capabilities and specifications the week of December 17.
- The Illinois Commerce Commission is reviewing information on Nextel telephone/two-way radio services currently being used by the Illinois State Police, including coverage and usage.
- The ICC Gas Policy Committee hosted a public presentation by a representative of the Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company, the natural gas provider for the City of Chicago, on security issues and steps being taken to increase security levels.
- According to information provided by the Illinois Commerce Commission, administrators of passenger, freight, and commuter railroads across the nation have implemented a variety of measures to enhance railway security in the past three months. Measures include: facility security was expanded and intensified, train crews were instructed to report any unusual or suspicious

activity along right-of-ways, extra patrols were conducted along bridges and tunnels, photo ID cards were issued to employees, photo identification was established as a requirement when checking baggage on passenger trains, emergency evacuation plans were reviewed, and emergency equipment, especially on commuter trains, was checked. A number of task forces have been established at the national level to examine the adequacy of railroad security measures.

- Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) Director Joe Hampton recently attended the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in St. Louis on December 3-5. At the meeting, press interviews and other discussions took place on bioterrorism. The Department discussed with both farmers and agribusinesses attending the meeting what activities should be guarded against and reported to local law enforcement officials to protect our natural resources, livestock, feed, and grains used in our food supply.
- Agriculture Director Hampton and Mike Williams met on December 5 with William "Bill" Hawks, USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs and David Shipman, Deputy Administrator. Discussion items included responses to terrorist events, protection of Illinois' grain and livestock industry, and what cooperative efforts could be accomplished should an event occur.
- IDOT has scheduled a meeting for December 20, 2001 with FHWA, ISP, IEMA and the military to discuss the state's current Emergency Highway Traffic Regulation Plan.
- The Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics, is suggesting that pilots obtain a thorough preflight briefing before each and every flight to get the latest information regarding Temporary Flight Restrictions.